

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 09130 191558Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
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R 181734Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8645
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

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E. O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: FRG VIEW OF PROSPECTS FOR NATURAL GAS

REF: BONN 1145

1. IN A STATEMENT TO THE BUNDESTAG STATE SECRETARY
GRUENER (MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS) EXPRESSED A RELATIVELY
OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE OUTLOOK FOR NATURAL GAS AS A
SOURCE OF PRIMARY ENERGY SUPPLY IN THE FRG.

2. THE SUPPLY/DEMAND SITUATION FOR NATURAL GAS IS
GENERALLY THOUGHT TO BE MORE FAVORABLE THAN FOR
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PAGE 02 BONN 09130 191558Z

PETROLEUM. RESOURCES (CERTAIN AND PROBABLE RESERVES)
ARE EXPECTED TO BE SUFFICIENT FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS
AT A GROWTH RATE IN CONSUMPTION OF ABOUT THREE PERCENT.
ON THE SUPPLY SIDE, THE ABSOLUTE VOLUME OF NATURAL
GAS AVAILABLE TO THE FRG IS EXPECTED TO RISE THROUGH
THE YEAR 2000, BUT TO DECLINE THEREAFTER.

3. DESPITE THE FACT THAT MANY PRODUCER COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO SELL INCREASING AMOUNTS OF GAS IN THEIR OWN DOMESTIC MARKETS, THE GOVERNMENT STILL EXPECTS THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT GAS AVAILABLE TO SATISFY GERMAN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS. OF TOTAL PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN THE FRG, THE SHARE HELD BY GAS IS EXPECTED TO RISE FROM ABOUT 14 PERCENT IN 1975 - 1976 TO ABOUT 18 PERCENT IN 1985 BUT FALL TO ABOUT 16 PERCENT BY 2000.

4. IN 1977, THE FRG CONSUMED 55 MILLION TONS COAL EQUIVALENT (SKE) OF NATURAL GAS FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION--	38 PERCENT
IMPORTS--	
THE NETHERLANDS	49 PERCENT
USSR	11 PERCENT
NORWAY	2 PERCENT

5. BY 1990 THE FRG IS EXPECTED TO CONSUME 90 MILLION TONS (SKE) OF NATURAL GAS TO BE MADE UP AS FOLLOWS:

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION--	25 PERCENT
IMPORTS--	
THE NETHERLANDS	30 PERCENT
USSR	13 PERCENT

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PAGE 03 BONN 09130 191558Z

NORWAY	13 PERCENT
ALGERIA	11 PERCENT
IRAN	8 PERCENT

6. BOTH GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY EXPRESS CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENCE ABOUT THEIR GAS SUPPLIES BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT THE AMOUNT OF GAS ESTIMATED FOR NEEDS IN 1990-2000 IS ALREADY SECURED UNDER LONG-TERM CONTRACT.

7. OTHER REASONS ADVANCED FOR GERMAN CONFIDENCE ARE THAT IN 1990 ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF GAS IMPORTS WILL STILL COME FROM WESTERN EUROPEAN SOURCES AND 80 PERCENT WILL BE IMPORTED FROM NON-OPEC COUNTRIES. IT IS THOUGHT THAT OVER THE LONGER TERM INCREASED AMOUNTS OF GAS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM LNG SHIPMENTS OR OPENING UP OF NEW FIELDS WHICH CAN BE WORKED INTO THE EXISTING EUROPEAN PIPELINE NETWORK.
STOESSEL

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